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CONCORDIA COUNCIL ON STUDENT LIFE

Minutes of a Meeting held in Room AD-128, Loyola Campus, at 2:30 P.M. on Tuesday,
8 December 1981

PRESENT: Dr. R. Breen, Chairman; Mr. D. Arfin, Ms. D. Britton, Mr. B. Counihan,
Dr. E. Enos, Ms. G. Hirsh, Ms. A. Kerby, Mr. C. Senosier, Mr. J.A.
Sproule, Prof. R. Swedburg, Rev. M. Terho; Ms. D. Brundage, Recorder.

ABSENT: Mr. L. Burogano, Mr. R. Javitch, Mr. F. Loverso, Prof. M. Taylor

GUEST: Mr. D. Boisvert

Chairman's Remarks

- 81.12.1.0 Dr. Breen referred to the resignation he had recently received from Council's secretary, Ms. D. Brundage and asked for a Motion expressing Council's thanks for her services. Dean Counihan so MOVED, Mr. Sproule SECONDED and the MOTION CARRIED.
- 81.12.1.1 The Chairman then informed members that Prof. M. Taylor, one of Council's faculty representatives, had found it impossible to attend Council meetings because of a conflict in her schedule. In January, Dr. Breen said, nominations would be sought for her replacement.
- 81.12.1.2 Mr. Arfin advised Council of the recent decision of CUSA's Legislative Council to remove Mr. W. Harper as one of CUSA's delegates to Council. This replacement will be appointed in January. Mr. Harper's place on Council's Priorities and Finance Committee will be filled by Ms. G. Hirsh.

Approval of the Agenda

- 81.12.2 Mr. Sproule MOVED and Ms. Kerby SECONDED that the Agenda for Council's present meeting be approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of 17 November 1981

- 81.12.3.0 The Chairman stated that he wished the record of Council's previous meeting to be amended in certain places.
- 81.12.3.1 In the second sentence of paragraph 81.11.1, the phrase....what had been done could not be undone..." should be replaced by the following, ".... what had been done need not be undone...".
- 81.12.3.2 In the last sentence of paragraph 81.11.1, the phrase, "...that such a sum be allocated..." should be replaced by the following, "...that a certain sum be allocated...".
- 81.12.3.4 In the second sentence of paragraph 81.11.6, the word "concentration" should be replaced by the word "concertation".

81.12.3.5 Mr. Sproule pointed out the obvious omission of the word "space" following the phrase "... in obtaining the appropriate..." which occurs in the second sentence of paragraph 81.11.8.

81.12.3.6 Ms. Kerby then MOVED and Mr. Sproule SECONDED that the Minutes of the meeting of 17 November 1981, as amended be approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Résumé, La vie étudiante, Guide de discussion pour l'atelier de travail du 11 décembre 1981, CCSL 81-12-D1

81.12.4.0 Dr. Breen referred to the atelier de travail to be held at the end of the week which he and Dean Counihan would attend with Dr. O'Brien and asked what points relevant to the working paper for the meeting previously circulated to members should be made. Specifically, what are student rights and how are they different from other human rights? What is the appropriate extent of student participation in the academic enterprise? What is the appropriate extent of student participation in the decision-making process?

81.12.4.1 Mr. Arfin stated that at Concordia students' rights, in general, are well respected. Students are well represented and their voices are heard, a situation which is not always the case at other Quebec universities. Dean Counihan remarked that at some of these institutions obstacles had been placed to the development of student associations. This has not been so at Concordia, nor was it true of the former Loyola College or Sir George Williams University.

81.12.4.2 Mr. Senosier enquired as to the use of course evaluations and noted that it was his understanding that students were not represented on the Tenure Committee. Dr. Breen stated that a professor could use a good evaluation as evidence in his favour should he experience criticism of his teaching performance. On the other hand, evaluations might be used by the administration as aids to improving teaching deficiencies evidenced by certain faculty members. The question of compulsory evaluations has been raised in the past, and debates as to their possible use in contractual negotiations have taken place, but there are problems with this approach. In most cases, the very good and the very poor professors are easily identified without evaluation; it is those in the middle-rank who might be usefully evaluated.

81.12.4.3 In response to Dr. Breen's statement that the present evaluation results are submitted to the professor concerned and his chairman, Mr. Arfin noted that students had a prime interest in these results. The publication made available to students some years ago, in his opinion, was too technical. Dr. Breen replied that the less technical the results became, the less objective and, therefore, the less useful. The comments' section of the evaluations need not be published, Mr. Arfin observed, but only those responses which can be numerically evaluated.

81.12.4.4 Dean Counihan mentioned the extensive work which Prof. R. Smith of Learning Development had done on course evaluation and asked if Council might not want to endorse some sort of project in which he would participate. Dr. Breen replied that it might be useful to invite Prof. Smith to attend one of Council's future meetings.

- 81.12.4.5 Dr. Breen acknowledged Ms. Hirsh's observation that the Commerce Faculty does not supply students with all of the professors' names for the various sections of a course and often changes them at course-change, by noting the difficulty that the presence of a large number of part-time faculty causes in this regard. In Arts and Science, he went on, the problem is in deciding the number of sections to be put on. One would not want to publish a professor's name and then not hire him.
- 81.12.4.6 In response to Dr. Breen's question as to whether or not Council was happy with the role of students at Concordia, Mr. Arfin stated that the degree of representation was satisfactory but that there were difficulties in filling all the positions. Because of the full-time/part-time distinction, certain places reserved for part-time students go unfilled. He, and other members of the CUSA Executive, would like to see this distinction eliminated and students as a whole represented on University bodies. Dr. Breen pointed out the dangers in going to extremes in this matter and noted the difference between students who held part-time status because of their CUSA responsibilities and those who held full-time jobs. Dean Counihan stated that that question turned on psychological factors as well as those of principle.
- 81.12.4.7 Mr. Sproule enquired as to the nature of the presentation to be made on Friday. Dr. Breen stated that there would be no written document from Concordia; a presentation would be made by a member of CREPUQ on behalf of all the universities. The six student representatives have been appointed by their provincial association, the faculty members by their unions and the balance of the group consists of the presidents of all the universities except Bishop's. The advisors to the various members may speak only when recognized by the Chairman. It was stated that the student group does not include any representation from Concordia because CUSA is considering disassociation from the provincial organization. Moreover, Mr. Arfin said the suspicion existed that the exercise was merely an example of governmental lip-service. Nevertheless, Dr. Breen noted it is a public forum and an opportunity to express ideas.
- 81.12.4.10 Dr. Breen then reported that the question of the level of financing of Concordia and UQAM had been raised and that as a result of interventions made on this subject Concordia's situation had received a certain amount of attention. The Minister will study the matter and make his decision after consulting with his various advisors.

Letter to Rev. Dr. R. Breen from Dean Counihan re the Daycare Centre,
CCSL 81-12-D2

- 81.12.5 Last Spring the Daycare Centre had begun the process of incorporation, Dean Counihan said, which was completed in the Fall. The Centre must now form a Board of Governors and because of Council's financial support, it has asked that one of CCSL's membership become a member of its corporation. Dean Counihan then MOVED and Mr. Sproule SECONDED that Rev. M. Terho be appointed to fill this position. MOTION CARRIED.

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81.12.6

WUSC Request (CCSL 81-11-D2), Report on Concordia Students with Refugee Status, Ms. A. Kerby.

Ms. Kerby distributed a document on this subject, CCSL 81-12-D3, to members. In response to her informal request ten students holding this status had been identified, five whose names are available and five others who have received formal requests to use their names. The various terms by which refugee status is granted to students was discussed by Ms. Kerby. Dr. Breen stated that he assumed what WUSC had in mind was that Concordia might sponsor a student in the amount of some \$2,000-\$2,500. In response to Ms. Hirsh's question as to how some of Concordia's present refugees might react if they were to discover that Concordia was sponsoring a new one, Ms. Kerby stated that she would not favour such sponsorship if a student already here was going to have to terminate his studies. Dr. Breen said that he would take his investigation one step further to determine what the actual need is of those refugees presently at Concordia.

Reports from Directors

- 81.12.7.0 Mr. Sproule stated that he had nothing of particular note to report.
- 81.12.7.1 Dr. E. Enos distributed a written report, document CCSL 81-12-D4, for members' perusal.
- 81.12.7.2 Dean Counihan observed that approximately twelve families had responded to the call to receive international students into their homes during the Christmas break.
- 81.12.7.3 Rev. Terho and others from the downtown Campus Ministry had recently run a two-day conference of chaplains, Dean Counihan noted. Rev. Terho reported that it had been a very uplifting and informative experience; the theme had been ecumenical and interfaith activities on campus.
- 81.12.7.4 Belmore House is engaged in its annual Christmas basket drive, Dean Counihan said. Last year the amount collected was about \$5,000 and it is anticipated that the fund will total close to that amount this year.
- 81.12.7.5 The annual Arts and Gifts Fair held in November on the downtown campus grossed some \$33,000, of which student services will receive fifteen per cent.
- 81.12.8 Dr. Breen noted that the Council tradition which calls for the Chairman to host a reception for members had been broadened. Again this year, it will be held in January rather than before Christmas.
- 81.12.9 Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

To be at the Call of the Chair.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:10 P.M.